A New Species of Dermaptera (Forficulidae) from Mexican Bromeliads

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Bromeliads, of which the pineapple is the most familiar example, occur in a variety of forms in the tropical parts of Central America, some being epiphytic, such as *Tillandsia* or Spanish moss, whilst others, such as *Billbergia,* are more suggestive of the pineapple plant. Since these are more common in the wetter parts of the area, water collects amongst the basal leaves, and this habitat may harbour a rich fauna of insects, some of which are characteristic of this habitat, such as the larvae of the giant damsel-fly, *Mecistogaster*. The shelter afforded by the leaves of other bromeliads attract other insects and whilst some of these insects are widely distributed, others are not known from other habitats. The tendency for earwigs to seek shelter in dark moist crevices partly explains their interest in bromeliads, and food, in the shape of softer insects or vegetable material is likely to be available.

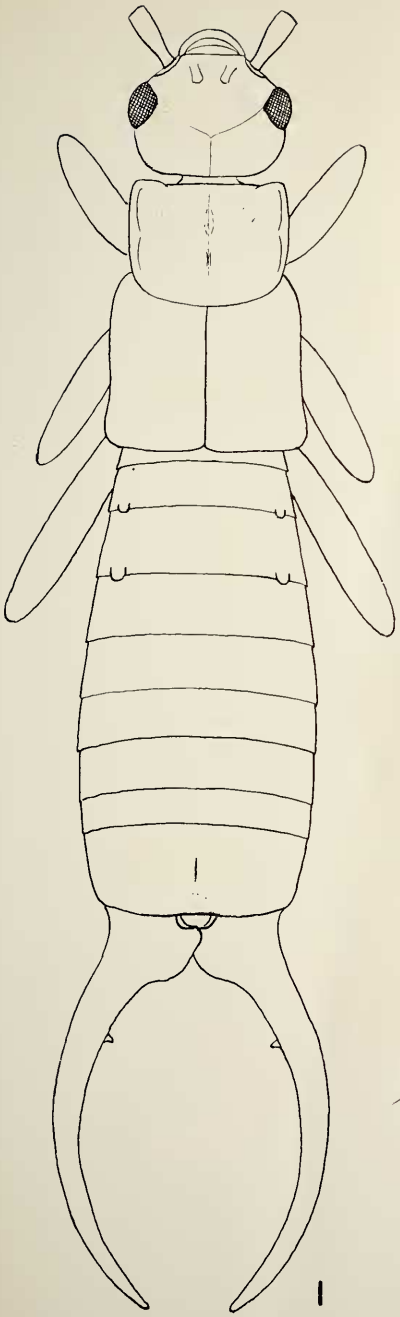
In the course of investigating the fauna of Mexican bromeliads, Mr K. E. Lucas, of the California Academy of Sciences, has come across numbers of a previously undescribed species of *Skalistes*, together with a few other specimens of known Mexican species. These latter are females and likely to be present for the purpose of egg laying, but the new species, which I have pleasure in naming after the captor, may be restricted to bromeliads since both sexes are present. I am indebted to Dr Paul H. Arnaud Jr., of the California Academy of Sciences, for the opportunity to examine the specimens.

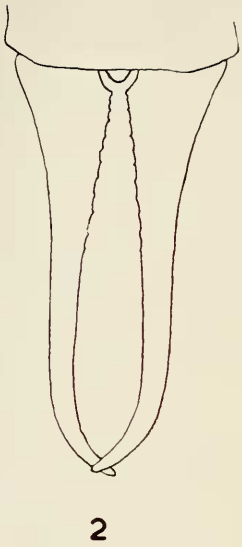
Skalistes lucasi sp.n.

Blackish; antennae dark brown, basal segment reddish-yellow to reddish-brown; legs reddish—or yellowish-brown, or with femora somewhat darkened. Cuticle coriaceous, glabrous, rather shining.

Male (fig. 1): head transverse, tumid, lateral margins curving smoothly into almost straight posterior margin; epicranial sutures marked by narrow smooth and shining lines; two U-shaped depressions lie between the antennal bases, with the open end of the U-directed anteriorly and the depressions diverging; eyes rather large. First antennal segment long, but slightly shorter than the distance between the antennal bases, second segment transverse, third and fourth segments nearly subequal in length, two and half times as long as broad, fifth segment three times as long as broad; distal segments four times as long as broad, almost cylindrical but slightly and evenly narrowed basally, actual bases and apices rounded; all segments pubescent, hairs short and yellow. Pronotum

PLATE I





Skalistes lucasi sp.n.—1, male, dorsal; 2, female forceps; 3, anterior leg; 4, posterior leg.